

Dear Mr. Gautreau:

Thank you for the presentation given by you and Mr. Mike Babin during the public meeting of the Mississippi River Commission in New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 6, 2001. In your statement you presented comments on areas of concern to your levee district. Our responses to your recommendations for improvements in the Pontchartrain Levee District are given below in the order outlined in your statement submitted for the record of the meeting.

Recommendations for Improvements in the Pontchartrain Levee District

We recognize the importance of levee enlargement, slope paving, and seepage control within the Pontchartrain Levee District. Your recommendations are instrumental in establishing priorities within continued funding restrictions. We look forward to further cooperation as the completion of construction in your levee district is near.

The Carville to Marchand levee enlargement will be completed in July 2001. This construction brings the Mississippi River Levees in the Ponchartrain Levee District up to or above designated grade.

The East Bank Gaps Concrete Slope Pavement Reaches project has been delayed due to a lack of funding this fiscal year. When the funds become available, the New Orleans District expects to award the first contract in the Baton Rouge area.

As always, it is a great pleasure to work with the Pontchartrain Levee District in coordinating revetment construction and maintenance work. Monitoring surveys have been taken

to determine this year's maintenance needs. The revetments in the Pontchartrain Levee District appear to be in very good shape based on analyses of these surveys by the New Orleans District. Minor stone repairs to upper bank scour areas will be performed. With careful monitoring, prioritizing remaining work, and performing required repairs, we are confident that the current rate of revetment placement will prove meaningful in protecting existing levees and assuring the integrity of the overall flood control project.

Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, Hurricane Protection, St. Charles Parish

The New Orleans District is proceeding as rapidly as possible with the design and construction of this project. The contract for the Bayou Trepagnier Drainage Structure was completed in December 2000. The Cross Bayou Drainage Structure is under construction and is scheduled for completion in August 2001. Reach 1B, First Lift Levee, was completed in January 2001. Reach 1A, Second Enlargement, is scheduled for award this summer. The St. Rose Drainage Structure is scheduled for award in late 2001. Work on the remaining drainage structures, which are located in Reach 1B, must wait for at least 2 years after completion of that contract to allow for consolidation of the underlying soils. Completion of those structures is scheduled for 2004. This will provide a closed system of protection for the east bank of St. Charles Parish.

We have had excellent cooperation from the Pontchartrain Levee District, and we appreciate your consistently providing funding and assurances for the project. We look forward to continuing our close working relationship.

In regard to the addition of pumping stations, this effort has been incorporated by the New Orleans District into a study of internal drainage needs in St. Charles Parish.

West Shore, Lake Pontchartrain, Hurricane Protection

The West Shore, Lake Pontchartrain feasibility study was initiated on April 1, 1998. The New Orleans District staff has completed the evaluation of alternative alignments and presented

recommendations to the Pontchartrain Levee District and St. John the Baptist Parish Council. The tentatively selected plan extends the protection west of the Reserve Relief Canal to the vicinity of the Hope Canal. This plan resulted in the inclusion of an additional 7 miles of levees and floodwalls. The draft feasibility report is scheduled to be complete in February 2002.

Delays in completing the feasibility study are a result of expanding the limits of the tentatively selected plan to include the area between the Reserve Relief Canal and the Hope Canal. Recent concerns expressed by St. John the Baptist Parish regarding the recommendations are also resulting in delays in completing the feasibility study. Fiscal Year 2001 funds are being used to initiate the detailed design of the tentatively selected plan and to develop a mitigation plan. We appreciate the support we have received from the Pontchartrain Levee District and are working towards expediting the completion of this study.

Thank you again for your presentation before the Commission. We appreciate receiving your views and will be pleased to hear from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
President Designee, Mississippi
River Commission